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SOVIET IRON AND STEEL OUTPUT INCREASES; SOME PLANTS SHOW SHORTCOMINGS

FERROUS METAL PRODUCTION RISES IN 1951 -- Moscow, Voprosy Ekonomiki, No 11 Nov 51

Soviet production of ferrous metals has increased considerably. As compared with 1950, the increase in pig iron smelting during 1951 will amount to 2,700,000 tons; the increase in steel smelting, about 4 million tons; and rolled steel, 3 million tons. The Soviet Union is now smelting approximately as much steel as Britain, France, Belgium, and Sweden together.

TRANSCAUCASUS PLANT FAILS TO MEET 6-MONTH PLAN -- Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 27 Jul 51

The open-hearth shop of the Transcaucasus Metallurgical Plant did not meet the plan for the first 6 months of 1951. Individual monthly plans for steel smelting were fulfilled, but the operation as a whole was irregular and not entirely satisfactory. In June, for example, only 88.4 percent of the plan was completed.

At present, the average duration of a melt in the open-hearth shop (with the exception of a number of high-speed melts) is 11½ hours, as against the norm of 10 hours. Furnace charging takes about an hour, instead of 45 minutes according to norm. The work schedule is often disrupted because of an inadequate supply of materials to the shop. Breakdowns of equipment still occur in the open-hearth shop. The shop has been using excessive quantities of furnace charge materials, refractories, magnesite brick, and magnesite powder. All of this increases production costs.

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UZBEK METALLURGICAL PLANT SHOWS LARGE PRODUCTION INCREASE -- Minsk, Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 28 Oct 51

The Uzbek Metallurgical Plant was put into operation 5 years ago, on 28 October 1946. As compared with the initial period of operation, the output of steel per square meter of furnace hearth has increased 2.7 times, and the productivity of rolling mills 8 times. Uzbek steel is now used to manufacture cotton-picking combines and complex equipment for various industrial enterprises, as well as for large construction projects.

KAZAKH METALLURGICAL PLANT TOPS PLAN FOR STEEL PRODUCTION -- Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 16 Nov 51

The open-hearth shop of the Kazakh Metallurgical Plant has produced several thousand tons of steel above the [illegible] plan. By using advanced labor methods, the average output of steel per square meter of furnace hearth has been increased from 5.56 to 6.23 tons. As a result of reduced production costs in every phase of operation, the plant has accumulated 1.5 million rubles of savings since the beginning of 1951. The plant intends to fulfill the 1951 plan by 15 December.

URAL PLANT CRITICIZED FOR POOR OPERATION -- Moscow, V Pomoshch' Profsoyuznomu Aktivu, No 23, Dec 51

During the first 10 months of 1951, the Nizhniy Tagil Metallurgical Plant imeni V. V. Kuybyshev failed to produce thousands of tons of metal required by plan. The plan for increase of labor productivity and reduction of production costs was likewise not fulfilled. The enterprise had a loss of several million rubles.

The main reasons for this production lag are the failure of the plant administration (director, Gulyayev) to provide adequate conditions for highly productive labor, to improve the training of skilled workers, and to supervise socialist competition among workers. There is no elementary working order in the blast-furnace shop. During a one-week period, no ore sampling is done. Scales are frequently broken and furnace charging is done unsystematically. The shakers for coke screening are daily out of order, causing delay in the feeding of fuel. Because of inadequate equipment, workers are forced to deliver sand and clay by hand. The technological production process is frequently disturbed, there are work stoppages, and the blast-furnace operation is irregular.

Conditions are no better in the rolling shop. Mechanization of labor processes in this working area is far below production requirements. Until October 1951, rolling mill "600" was operated by a worn-out motor, which was more often in repair than in operation. At the same time, Director Gulyayev would not permit the shop to use the new and powerful motor stored in the warehouse.

Many valuable suggestions made by plant workers for the improvement of technological processes and equipment have been ignored by the plant management.

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OTHER URAL PLANTS INCREASE IRON, STEEL OUTPUT -- Moscow, Trud, 1 Jul 51

Enterprises of "Glavuralmet" (Main Administration of Ural Metallurgical Industry) fulfilled the 6-month plan for the entire metallurgical cycle on 29 June. As a result of wide competition among Ural metallurgists, the coefficient of blast-furnace utilization for the first 5 months of 1951 was 0.95, as compared with 0.98 during the same period of 1950. Output of steel per square meter of furnace hearth increased by 280 kilograms as compared with 1950.

Moscow, Pravda, 5 Jun 51

A number of Ural metallurgical plants, including the Metallurgical Plant imeni Serov, the Verkh-Isetskiy Plant, the Nizhniye Sergi Plant, the Alapayevsk Plant, the Staroutkinsk Plant, and others, fulfilled the 5-month plan ahead of schedule and produced large quantities of pig iron, steel, and rolled steel above plan.

Moscow, Izvestiya, 3 Jul 51

During the postwar period, the Metallurgical Plant imeni Serov in Serov, Sverdlovsk Oblast, has almost doubled its output of metal. In the first quarter 1951, the blast-furnace shop received the Transferable Red Banner of the Council of Ministers USSR and the honor title of "best blast-furnace shop in the country." The shop fulfilled the 6-month plan 10 days ahead of schedule and reached a coefficient of blast-furnace utilization of 0.62, using coke as fuel.

The steel-smelting shop also fulfilled the 6-month plan ahead of schedule. In June, over 95 percent of all melts were high-speed melts. The rolling shop likewise fulfilled the 6-month plan.

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